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Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

International drug control

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 1 July 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the following Permanent Missions of States Members of the United Nations, which are also members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan, I have the honour, as a representative of the host country of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit, to convey to you the text of the Tashkent Declaration of Heads of Shanghai Cooperation Organization States, adopted at their summit on 17 June 2004 (see annex).

The declaration expresses the common aspiration of the member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to make joint efforts to counter new threats and challenges, including terrorism and illicit drug trafficking, and to foster cooperation in different areas, mainly in the economic sphere.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the Tashkent Declaration circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 57, 100 and 152 of the preliminary list, and also of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Alisher **Vohidov**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan
to the United Nations

* A/59/50 and Corr.1.

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Annex to the letter dated 1 July 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Tashkent Declaration by the heads of State of the members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

[Original: Russian]

The heads of State of the members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (hereinafter "SCO" or "the Organization") — the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan — at a meeting in Tashkent of the Council of Heads of State of the Members of SCO held on 17 June 2004, declare the following:

I

The heads of State emphasized that the success achieved by SCO since its inception and the changes in the international situation bear witness to the appropriateness of the institutions and development of the Organization to the trend of the times and to the long-term, fundamental interests of the peoples of the six States, as well as to the correctness of the principles established by the Organization.

The heads of State, noting the successful accomplishment of the tasks of completing the organizational establishment of SCO, outlined at the Moscow summit in May 2003, made a favourable assessment of the work carried out by the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and the Council of National Coordinators.

The heads of State expressed their satisfaction at the timely launch of the standing organs of SCO — the Secretariat in Beijing and the Executive Committee of the Regional Counter-Terrorist Structure in Tashkent and noted the major efforts made by the Chinese and Uzbek parties to create appropriate conditions for their full operation.

In October 2003 the leading organ of the Regional Counter-Terrorist Structure, the Council, began its work. Within the Regional Counter-Terrorist Structure a concrete plan of work was developed and a number of essential legislative instruments were adopted. The essential preconditions were thus in place for the effective functioning of the Structure which has the task of ensuring systemic and focused cooperation, within the framework of SCO, to implement the Shanghai Convention on Combating Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism.

Note was taken of the importance of the uninterrupted operation of the mechanism for funding the activities of SCO to the high-quality and effective resolution of the problems facing the Organization.

The long-term programme of multilateral trade and economic cooperation between the SCO member States adopted by the Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) in Beijing in September 2003 is of vital importance for the strengthening of SCO as a whole and for the development of its economic component. The document not only enshrined a general understanding of the

guidelines, objectives and tasks of the working partnership among the six countries up to the year 2020 but also outlined the ways and means of achieving them.

The Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs is hard at work. The Protocol on collaboration and the coordination of activity between the ministries of foreign affairs of the six countries has an important role to play in harmonizing the positions of the six countries on current issues in international life.

The heads of State support the initiative of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the holding of regular meetings of the Secretaries of the Security Councils of the member States of the Organization in order to strengthen collaboration among the appropriate national bodies in meeting new threats and challenges.

The heads of State emphasize that, under the new conditions, the Council of National Coordinators, with the support of the SCO Secretariat, must concentrate not only on ensuring the smooth operation of SCO but also on developing conceptual approaches to the further development of the Organization.

Ever since the phase of its inception, SCO, following the principle of openness, has taken part in international relations as an authoritative and equal partner. SCO will continue to do so in the future. A new substantive step in the establishment and broadening of contacts between the Organization and other international groupings and States, irrespective of their geographical location, were the guidelines on observer status in ISC adopted in Tashkent. Work will continue on the documents regulating other forms of international collaboration by SCO as envisaged by the Charter of the Organization.

II

At the close of the period of institutional establishment, SCO embarked on the phase of the development of full scale collaboration by the member States in the framework of the Organization. The heads of State support a gradual and well ordered advance along all the lines defined in the SCO Charter. In that context, cooperation must have both long-term objectives and priorities for the immediate future. The purpose of cooperation is the joint definition of the interests uniting the six countries on the basis of respect for their uniqueness and sovereign rights.

The Agreement on Cooperation against Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Their Precursors, signed in Tashkent, will be of great importance to multilateral efforts in the framework of SCO to confront transnational threats and challenges. The heads of State consider that the progress of implementation of that Agreement should be within the purview of the machinery for meetings of the Secretaries of the Security Councils which might also organize work on the drafting of a multidisciplinary programme document on cooperation in the framework of SCO to address new challenges and threats, including the illicit traffic in weapons, munitions, and explosive, toxic, poisonous and radioactive substances, and mercenarism.

The key to the stability and security of the Central Asian region and of co-terminous States is their steady economic development and satisfying the urgent vital needs of their population.

In that connection, the heads of State deem it essential that, by the forthcoming meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) in Bishkek in

autumn 2004, agreement should be reached on the plan for measures to implement the above-mentioned programme of multilateral trade and economic collaboration and that the four groups of experts that have been established should be finalized. It is important to envisage such systemic steps, the implementation of which implies embarking on modern forms of trade and economic collaboration and the expansion of commodity circulation between our countries, the harmonization of the regulatory and legal framework, and the gradual creation of favourable conditions for the free circulation of goods, capital, services and technologies.

In addition to measures already taken or planned to stimulate the processes of integration in the framework of SCO, the heads of State consider it opportune to embark on the creation of an SCO Development Fund and an SCO Business Council and instruct the SCO secretariat to ensure, in the shortest possible time, the preparation of the appropriate documents to give effect to those projects.

On the whole, while assessing positively the development of cooperation in various areas in the period following the Moscow summit, the heads of State draw attention to the vital necessity of ensuring clarity and effectiveness in cooperation between ministries responsible for foreign economic activity and foreign trade, transport, defence, culture, dealing with the aftermath of emergency situations, and also between other structures of the SCO member States.

At the same time, in order to enhance the effectiveness of the work of the institution of meetings of the heads of ministries and departments, particular importance attaches to the prompt completion of the drafting and adoption of legal standards for cooperation, as well as the timely implementation of agreements reached.

It is essential to incorporate environmental protection issues, and the rational and effective utilization of water resources, in the agenda for the development of cooperation in the framework of the Organization. The corresponding ministries and departments, together with scientific establishments, might make a start as early as the current year on joint work to prepare a strategy for SCO in those areas.

III

The heads of State are convinced that the steady development and strengthening of SCO, as an organization that does not form a bloc and is based on the principles of equal partnership, mutual respect, trust and openness, are consistent with the major lines of international development and will promote a broadening of the framework of international dialogue.

SCO is ready to play an active part in the constructive formation of a new security architecture capable of consolidating broad international efforts to respond to the new challenges and threats facing global and regional stability. To that end, SCO will cooperate with other States and international structures, chief among them the United Nations, and make its contribution to security and stability not just in its own area but in the world as a whole.

The heads of State express great concern in connection with the recent sharp upsurge of terrorism and extremism. Terrorists are targeting various countries and regions of the world. Terrorism adapts flexibly to the situation, adopts modern technology and is willing to make use of any unregulated conflicts for its own purposes.

The global threat of terrorism must be opposed by the global system of counter-terrorism, with the United Nations at its core, which must be based on regional, subregional and national structures. At the same time it is important not only to respond adequately to the actions of terrorists but also to endeavour to pre-empt them.

The SCO member States will strengthen their collaboration in the field of security in order to enhance the effectiveness of the fight against terrorism, separatism and extremism and to protect their common interests. The heads of State note the expediency of conducting joint counter-terrorism training with the participation of the law enforcement agencies and special services, aimed at strengthening coordination in the fight against such threats.

The heads of State consider that the responses to the complex challenges of modern times — whether international terrorism or regional conflicts and crises — can and must be found on a multilateral and cooperative basis without dividing states into different categories and in keeping with the standards and principles of international law. Only such an approach will ensure international security and stability in the conditions of globalization. SCO firmly resolves to be guided in its activity by those principles and expresses its willingness to cooperate actively with all States and multilateral groupings on that conceptual basis.

SCO, which is committed to the emergence of a peaceful, united and flourishing Afghanistan living in harmony with its neighbours and with other countries of the world, welcomes the formation in that country of a widely representative government.

The SCO member States, acknowledging the central coordinating role of the United Nations in the implementation of international programmes in that country will strive to promote international cooperation in the fight against terrorism, extremism and drug trafficking in order to establish security, peace and tranquillity as well as to create the essential conditions for the peaceful renewal of Afghanistan.

IV

The heads of State note that the constructive cooperation of all regional groupings in the Asia-Pacific region is of defining importance for the support of peace, stability and prosperity in which all countries in the region undoubtedly have an interest.

The heads of State propose to all the international organizations and forums active in the Asia-Pacific region that they should make a start on the gradual establishment of a partnership network of multilateral entities by concluding among themselves the appropriate agreements, including the granting to one another, on a reciprocal basis, of observer status.

The heads of State consider that the realization of that initiative would promote the formation in the Asia-Pacific region of a cooperative system of overall regional security and cooperation acting in the framework of the United Nations Charter and of international law and taking account, on an equal basis, of the interests of all participants.

Hu Jintao, President of the People's Republic of China

N. A. Nazarbayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan

A. A. Akayev, President of the Kyrgyz Republic

V. V. Putin, President of the Russian Federation

E. S. Rakhmonov, President of the Republic of Tajikistan

I. A. Karimov, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Tashkent, 17 July 2004